

OUTDOOR EDUCATION FUNDING WINDOW

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT OUTDOOR EDUCATION Proposal's – Eligibility CRITERIA

June 1, 2015

OUTDOOR EDUCATION (OE) grants are a subset of the larger Environmental Education program. OE refers to projects and activities that provide a meaningful outdoor educational experience by developing awareness, appreciation and stewardship of Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitats that benefits Arizona public schools and students.

The intent of **OE** grants is to fund projects that provide a meaningful outdoor, wildlife-focused educational experience to public school students while giving the greatest return for the Heritage funds invested consistent with the eligibility criteria listed below. Schools and districts are encouraged to submit proposals to cover the costs associated with field trips to an area important to local wildlife.

For **2016** there is **\$16,000** available to support **OE grant proposals**. Grant applicants can request from **\$500 to \$2,500** within this sub-category. Proposals can be used to cover **transportation** associated costs, **substitute teacher** costs incurred during the field trip activity; and any **resource** costs necessary to successfully carryout the activities. These resources might include binoculars, field guides, clipboards, dataloggers, etc. Funds **cannot be used** for entrance fees, food, drink, or other related costs.

A field trip itinerary with proposed field-trip date/times **MUST also be included** with the grant proposal and must detail the activities and the number of student participants.

OE Grant Award Recipients. The Department will evaluate and score all eligible OE proposals received, and select OE grant recipients by **November 30th, 2015**. The Department will initiate a Grant Agreement for all OE grant award recipients. This agreement must be signed by an authorized signatory representing the recipient and the Department Director (grant effective date). **OE grant award recipients have one year from the grant effective date (Project Period) to plan, execute and complete the field-trip and any supporting activities.** Once the grant effective date is established, Grant recipients can request OE grant award funding. OE awarded funds can then be used to support all field-trip activities within the applicable **Spring-2016** and/or **Fall-2016** school semesters.

Grant proposals that do not meet **one or more** of the **Eligibility CRITERIA** below **will be rejected**:

CRITERION-1: Arizona Outdoor, Nature-Based Field-Trip Experience

Funds can be used to get students into nature to explore habitats and wildlife first hand, at one or more outdoor settings located throughout and **within Arizona**. Preference will be given to activities that:

- a.** are original, teacher creations as opposed to established programs
- b.** are inquiry-based
- c.** are hands-on
- d.** are standards-based
- e.** identify any pre and post-activities that describe how the outdoor learning experience continues beyond the individual field trip
- f.** have a wildlife, wildlife habitat or outdoor recreation focus (i.e.; archery, fishing, wildlife identification, etc.)

CRITERION-2: Youth Day at the Outdoor Expo Field-Trip

Funds can be used to bring students to the **Department's 2016 Outdoor Expo Youth Day** which will take place on **Friday, April 1st, 2016** at the Ben Avery Facility in north Phoenix. This annual event provides numerous educational opportunities that allow students to learn about wildlife and outdoor recreation. These include hands-on activities such as archery, fishing, and wilderness survival as well as numerous demonstrations and presentations. Information about the previous year's Youth Day can be found at <http://www.azgfd.gov/youthday>. Successful applicants are expected to sign-up when registration becomes available in December or January.

CRITERION-3: Outdoor Programs at the Hirsch Conservation Education Area Field-Trip

Funds can be used to bring students to the Department's Hirsch Conservation Education Area located at the Ben Avery Facility in north Phoenix. The program will involve an indoor live animal program and an outdoor program focused on watchable wildlife. Applicants must:

- a. represent an Arizona public school
- b. have no more than **35** participating students
- c. plan the field-trip to occur during the Fall school semester (September thru December, 2016). If successful, the grant recipient must contact the Department's wildlife education coordinator eproctor@azgfd.gov as soon as possible to schedule the date.
- d. include a description of how the field trip will tie in with regular classroom instruction (i.e., pre- and post-activities)

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